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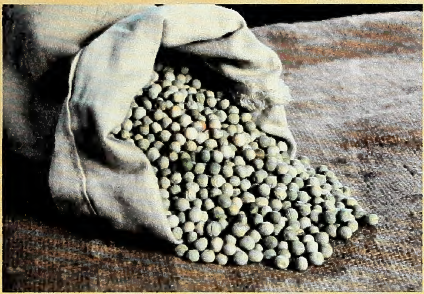
Alberta 1999 Specialty Crop Survey Results



Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Statistics and Data Development Unit

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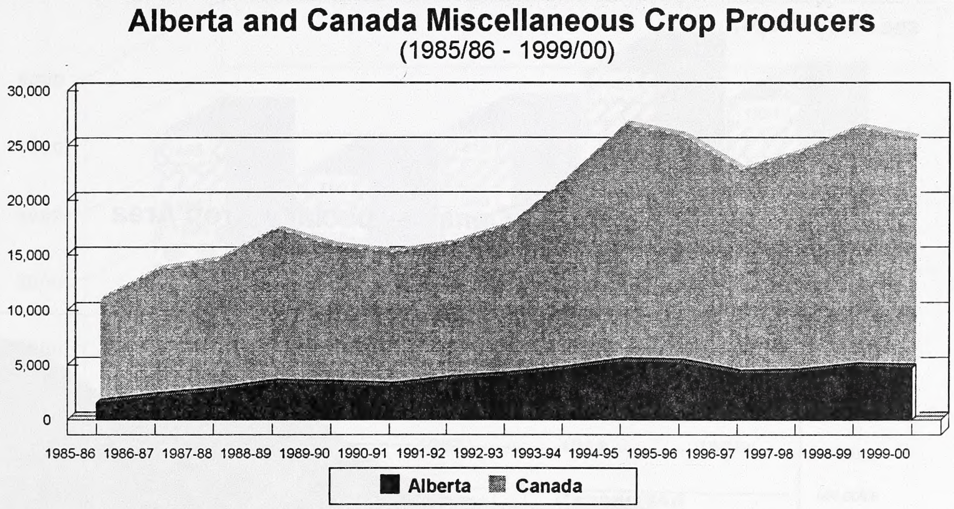
Introduction

In recent years, special crop production has proven to be a viable tool for both Alberta and Canadian producers to diversify their operations. In the 1999-00 crop year, specialty crop producers are estimated to number approximately 4,800 in Alberta and 25,350 in Canada. This has grown from just 1,500 producers in Alberta and 10,650 producers in Canada during the 1985-86 crop year.

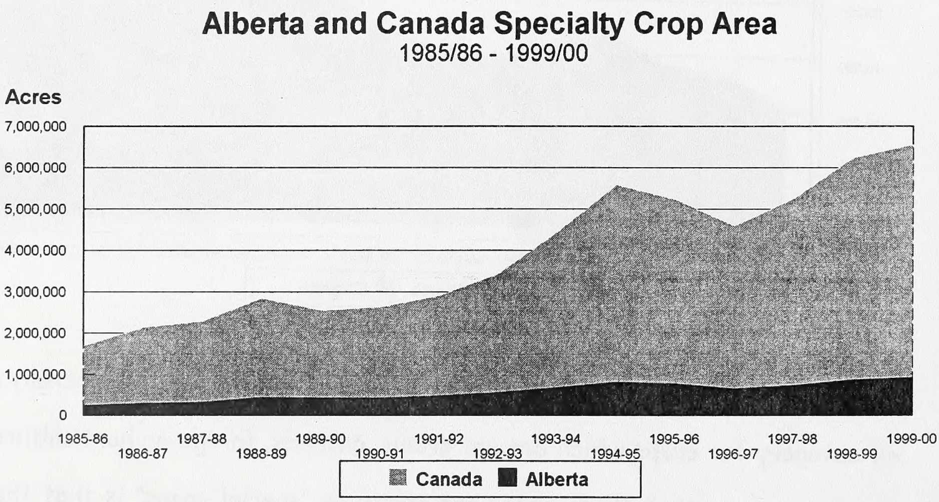
Figure 1



The term special crops encompasses a diverse group of crops and is generally a catch-all category for crops which are not grains, oilseeds, forage or horticultural crops. Another reason that these crops are known as "special crops" is that they often require more specialized equipment, production technology and marketing systems than other field crops.

The "special crops" category can be divided into two groups: major and minor special crops. While there is no recognized distinction between the two groups, the vernacular "major specialty crops" refer to those which have developed significant acreage and are well established. These include field peas, lentils, mustard, canary seed, beans, sugar beets, sunflowers, safflower and corn. Minor crops are generally regarded as those which have production potential in Western Canada, yet production is on a limited, small-scale basis. Some of the minor specialty crops include: caraway, coriander, borage, dill, quinoa, spelt, fenugreek, wild rice, ginseng, industrial hemp and the aromatic and medicinal plant species. This report concentrates on the major specialty crops.

Figure 2



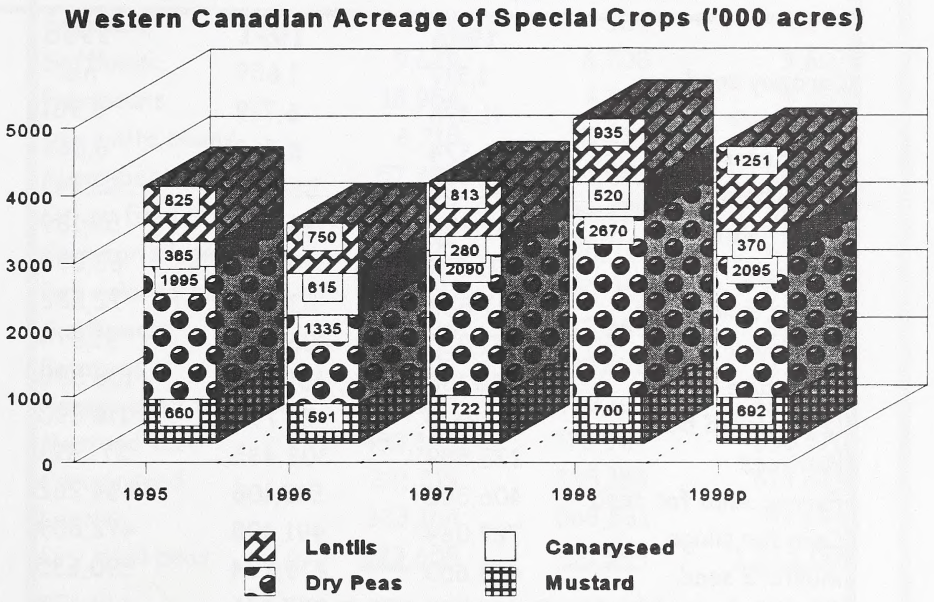
Alberta and Canada Specialty Crop Area

1985/86 - 1999/00

Canadian special crop acreage exceeded five and one-half million acres in 1999/00, more than twice the level experienced just ten years ago.

Western Canada's 1999 total special crop acreage was comprised mainly of 2.1 million acres of field peas, 1.3 million acres of lentils, 692,000 acres of mustard, 370,000 acres of canary seed and 210,000 acres of sunflowers. Western Canada's production of the four largest crops: peas, lentils, mustard and canary seed accounted for about 85 per cent of the Canadian total special crop production in 1999.

Figure 3



Other noteworthy Western Canadian special crops (excluding the four major crops above), include: chick peas (350,000 acres), dry beans (217,000 acres), sunflower (210,000 acres), triticale (185,000 acres), corn for grain (125,000 acres), fodder corn (65,000 acres) sugar beets (45,000 acres) and buckwheat (25,000 acres).

In 1999-00, special crop production rose over ten per cent as producers chose alternatives to the traditional grains and oilseeds.

An overview of Canadian specialty crop area from the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census of Agriculture is presented below.

Table 1

Census of Agriculture
Canadian Special Crop Area (acres)

	1986	1991	1996
Caraway seed	1,317	1,659	n.a.
Safflower	11,398	6,719	3,981
Fababeans	21,324	8,762	6,666
Buckwheat	97,163	58,430	48,743
Sugar beets	57,380	61,543	59,189
Triticale	21,981	19,702	63,895
Other field crops	17,862	53,844	72,882
Sunflower	71,220	206,049	91,674
Dry white beans	116,186	151,938	108,598
Dry colored beans	44,000	74,796	116,890
Potatoes	275,589	302,435	371,421
Forage seed for seed	406,350	510,108	454,262
Corn for silage	722,064	491,498	472,859
Mustard seed	453,653	279,274	590,635
Canary seed	224,485	237,436	614,679
Lentils	323,669	589,297	749,720
Dry field peas	327,040	495,649	1,325,274
Total	3,192,681	3,549,139	5,151,368

n.a. - Not available
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Canadian production of specialty crops continues to thrive. According to the Census data, production increased by over 60 per cent during the ten year period (1986 - 1996).

More importantly, as mentioned earlier, over 80 per cent of Canadian production is concentrated in Western Canada as per the Census of Agriculture data presented below.

Table 2

Census of Agriculture
Western Canadian Special Crop Area (acres)

	1986	**1991**	**1996**
Caraway seed	1,297	1,618	n.a.
Soybeans	344	926	1,644
Safflower	9,629	6,708	3,697
Fababeans	18,954	6,841	4,760
Dry white beans	6,715	25,569	37,976
Sugar beets	57,380	61,543	58,975
Other field crops	15,633	46,179	65,297
Corn for silage	88,872	76,914	67,336
Dry colored beans	16,791	40,901	67,397
Sunflower	67,996	202,765	89,794
Potatoes	80,672	90,602	117,439
Forage seed for seed	387,336	479,197	438,977
Mustard seed	453,345	278,927	590,170
Canary seed	221,319	235,159	614,529
Lentils	323,164	588,531	749,696
Dry field peas	323,658	491,944	1,323,196
Total	2,073,105	2,634,324	4,230,883

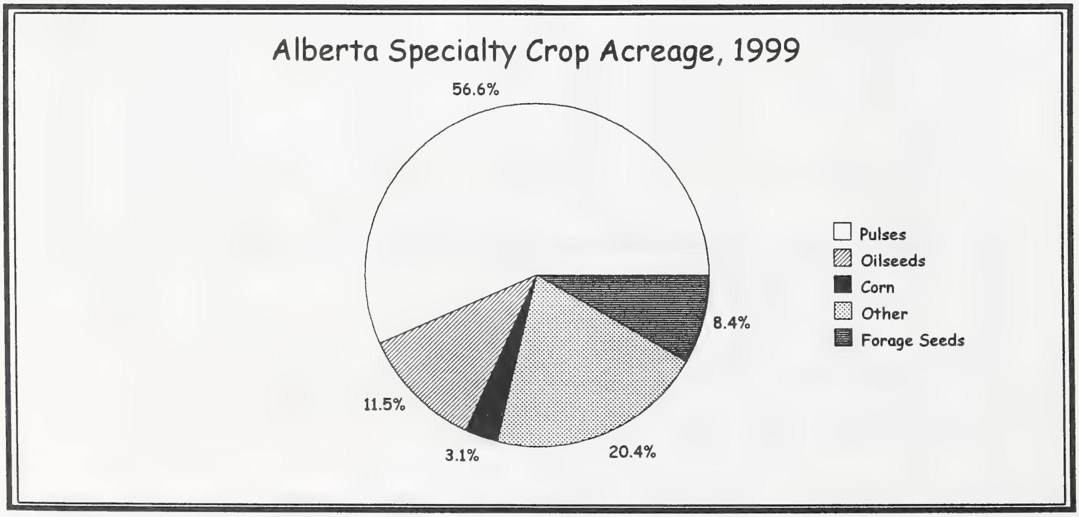
n. a. - Not available
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Table 3

1999 Specialty Crops

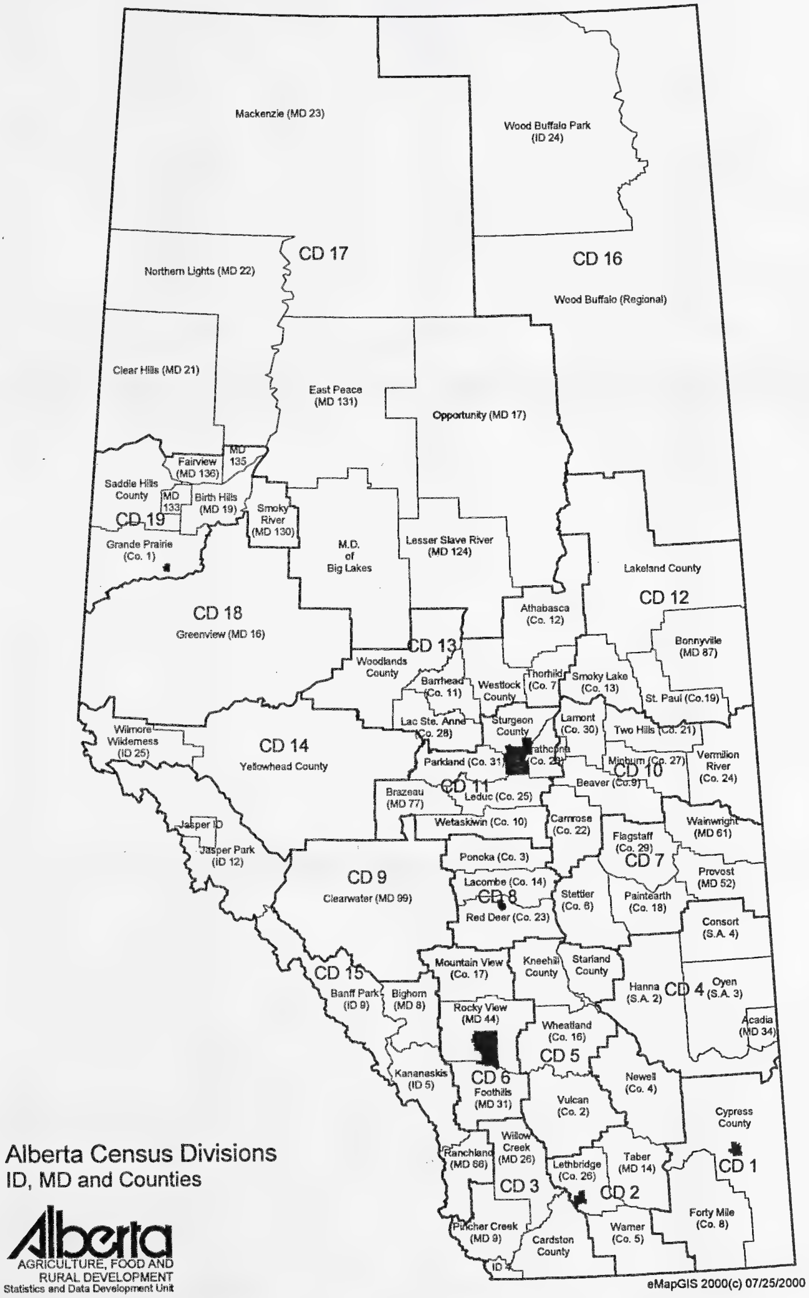
	Acreage (acres)		Yield	Production	Price
	Seeded	Harvested	(Unit/ Acre)	(Tonnes)	(JUL '00: $/unit)
Pulses					
Green Peas	200,000	195,000	44.3 bu	235,000	$3.75 bu
Yellow Peas	270,000	260,000	41.8 bu	296,000	$3.75 bu
Dry Beans	47,000	47,000	20.0 cwt	42,700	$0.21 lb
Fababeans	300	300	50.0 bu	400	$0.08 lb
Lentils	25,000	22,000	20.8 bu	12,400	$0.17 lb
Oilseeds					
Brown Mustard	15,000	13,500	20.1 bu	6,200	$0.10 lb
Yellow Mustard	60,000	54,000	20.2 bu	24,700	$0.14 lb
Oriental Mustard	25,000	22,500	27.2 bu	13,900	$0.10 lb
Sunflowers	5,000	5,000	1400.0 lbs	3,200	$0.16 lb
Safflower	5,000	5,000	900.0 lbs	2,000	$0.15 lb
Corn					
Grain Corn	15,000	10,000	80.0 bu	20,300	$3.20 bu
Silage Corn	15,000	15,000	13.0 tons	176,900	$132 tonne
Other					
Potatoes (1)	43,000	42,300	290.0 cwt	556,400	$8.78 cwt
Triticale	90,000	60,000	53.3 bu	81,300	$2.28 bu
Canary Seed	15,000	10,000	26.0 bu	5,900	$0.11 lb
Sugar Beets (2)	45,000	43,000	19.1 tonne	743,900	$36.00 tonne
Miscellaneous	3,000	2,000			
Forage Seeds (3)					
Alfalfa Seed	16,460		275.0 lbs	2,050	$0.90 lb
Alsike Clover	1,300		100.0 lbs	60	$2.00 lb
Brome Grass	6,073		300.0 lbs	830	$0.60 lb
Red Fescue	11,476		225.0 lbs	1,170	$1.10 lb
Red Clover	1,070		150.0 lbs	70	$0.45 lb
Timothy	12,057		250.0 lbs	1,370	$0.70 lb
Other	31,784				

Figure 4



Note:
(1) From Alberta Potato Survey
(2) From Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board
(3) Source: Canadian Seed Growers' Association - Inspected Acres of Grass and Legume Seed

Figure 5



Alberta Census Divisions
ID, MD and Counties

Table 4

1999 Special Crops by Census Division

C.D.	Field Peas	Mustard	Lentils	Beans
	Harvested Area (acres)			
1	26,500	11,500	7,450	23,500
2	37,650	26,700	9,250	23,100
3	5,350	6,200	----	----
4	8,900	28,800	4,100	400
5	70,200	14,600	100	----
6	18,950	----	----	----
7	75,950	2,200	600	----
8	14,450	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----
10	100,950	----	300	----
11	20,700	----	200	----
12	10,450	----	----	----
13	17,250	----	----	----
17	16,800	----	----	----
18	3,250	----	----	----
19	27,650	----	----	----
Alberta	**455,000**	**90,000**	**22,000**	**47,000**
	Yield (bushels/acre)			
1	40.0	20.7	20.7	34.0
2	44.0	21.0	21.0	32.9
3	41.0	17.0	----	----
4	42.0	22.9	21.0	24.0
5	36.0	23.0	16.0	----
6	46.0	----	----	----
7	47.0	35.0	16.0	----
8	46.0	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----
10	47.0	----	22.0	----
11	47.0	----	15.0	----
12	42.0	----	----	----
13	50.0	----	----	----
17	44.0	----	----	----
18	24.0	----	----	----
19	26.0	----	----	----
Alberta	**42.9**	**24.9**	**20.8**	**20.0**
	Production (tonnes)			
1	28,848	5,398	4,194	21,745.0
2	45,085	12,717	5,287	20,683.4
3	5,970	2,390	----	----
4	10,173	14,929	2,343	261.3
5	68,779	7,616	44	----
6	23,724	----	----	----
7	97,149	1,746	261	----
8	18,090	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----
10	129,127	----	180	----
11	26,478	----	82	----
12	11,945	----	----	----
13	23,473	----	----	----
17	20,118	----	----	----
18	2,123	----	----	----
19	19,565	----	----	----
Alberta	**530,800**	**44,800**	**12,400**	**42,700.0**

Totals may not add up due to rounding or lack of yield data for some census divisions

Table 5

1998 Special Crops by Census Division

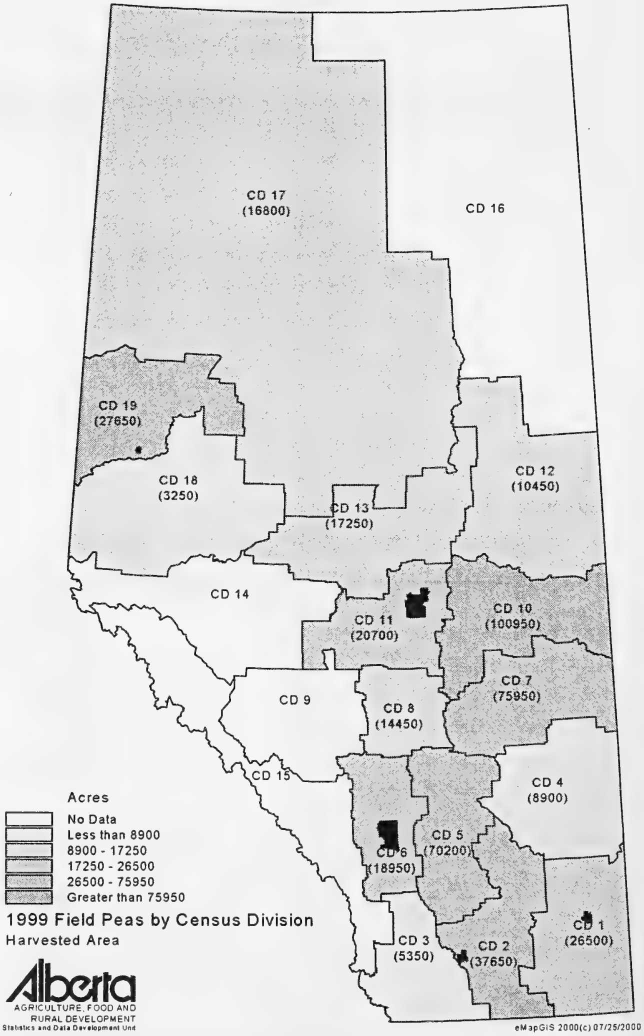
C.D.	Field Peas	Mustard	Lentils	Beans
		Harvested Area (acres)		
1	29,000	4,800	4,600	17,400
2	24,500	29,700	4,300	25,300
3	5,500	12,200	400	----
4	10,800	32,300	500	300
5	48,800	27,700	2,600	----
6	21,000	2,300	----	----
7	75,800	1,000	200	100
8	26,600	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----
10	131,000	----	200	----
11	27,100	----	2,200	na
12	7,400	----	----	----
13	18,300	----	----	----
17	20,500	----	----	na
18	2,400	----	----	----
19	51,300	----	----	----
Alberta	**500,000**	**110,000**	**15,000**	**44,500**
		Yield (bushels/acre)		
1	35.1	16.5	21.9	39.3
2	39.0	16.7	20.5	25.3
3	43.9	16.0	17.0	----
4	18.0	11.7	12.0	----
5	40.3	16.7	14.0	24.2
6	42.3	6.5	----	----
7	27.5	----	11.0	----
8	42.2	----	----	----
9	51.7	----	----	----
10	29.2	----	14.0	----
11	46.8	----	----	----
12	31.7	----	----	----
13	43.4	----	----	----
17	20.8	----	----	----
18	26.1	----	----	----
19	33.1	----	----	----
Alberta	**35.9**	**15.9**	**19.6**	**37.0**
		Production (tonnes)		
1	29,558	3,020	2,859	23,390.4
2	27,531	10,867	3,085	21,717.6
3	5,945	4,721	248	----
4	5,313	9,254	298	----
5	57,932	11,192	1,299	251.7
6	25,459	345	----	----
7	62,768	290	74	----
8	33,794	----	----	----
9	194	----	----	----
10	112,686	----	166	----
11	36,866	----	----	----
12	7,030	----	----	----
13	23,874	----	----	----
17	18,028	----	----	----
18	1,476	----	----	----
19	39,515	----	----	----
Alberta	**488,000**	**39,700**	**8,000**	**45,400.0**

Totals may not add up due to rounding or lack of yield data for some census divisions

Peas

The Development of Peas in Alberta...

As early as 1890, approximately 107 acres of peas were planted in the province. By 1910, there was over 300 acres grown, yielding about 11.5 bushels per acre. The price then was $1.30 per bushel. Up until 1987 (when a record 65,000 acres were planted), most years acreage levels hovered between 400 and 29,000 acres. Since then however, pea production in Alberta has had continued growth, with a record 1998 seeded area level of 510,000 acres. In addition, Alberta tends to record the highest pea yields in Canada. Across the prairies, the pea crop has grown in popularity. Saskatchewan has the largest acreage, accounting for approximately 70 per cent of Canada's pea acres while Manitoba accounts for approximately five to ten per cent. The reason for this strong Prairie growth in peas is a result of increase in both animal feed and human consumption markets in the domestic and international market place.



Just A Few Facts...

- In 1999, the value of dry pea production in Alberta was $57 million dollars. Across Canada, the figure was $262 million dollars.

- On average, about 70 per cent of the peas produced in Canada are sold as exports. These export markets are both feed and human consumption orientated. The largest buyers of Alberta peas are Bangladesh, India, Cuba, and Spain. Belgium, Spain and France are predominantly buyers of peas for feed, while South Asia and Cuba purchase primarily for human consumption.

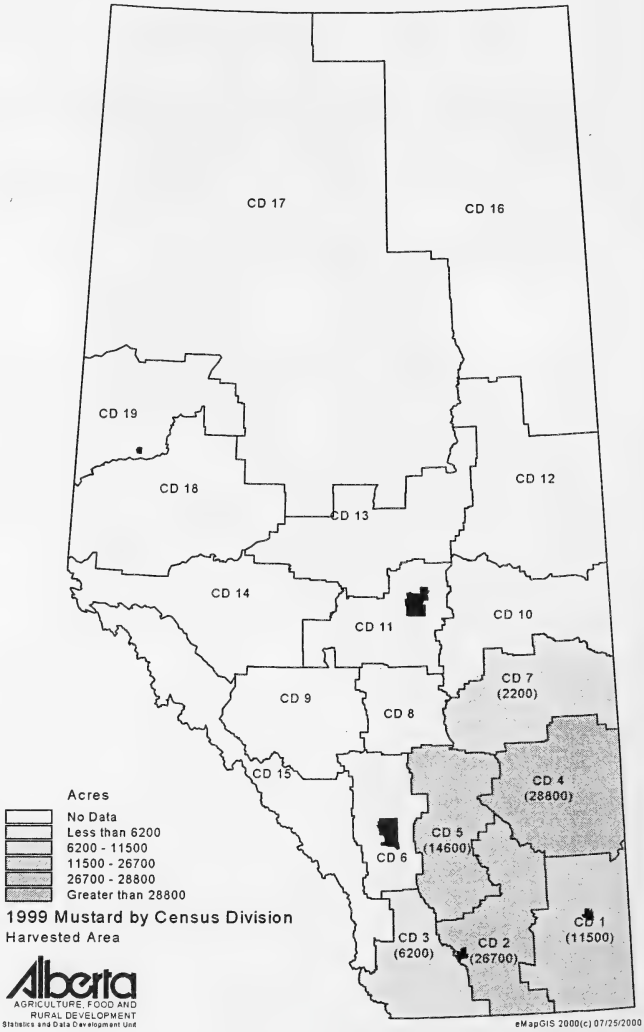
- Within Canada, peas are consumed predominantly by the pork industry in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In 1999, Alberta's dry pea seeded acreage was 470,000 acres, a decrease of 40,000 acres from 1998. However, significantly improved yields (42.9 bushels per acre) offset the lower acreage for a record provincial production level of 530,800 tonnes. While peas are produced throughout Alberta, the vast majority are grown in the Central and Northern Regions (see map on page 10).

Mustard

The Development of Mustard Seed in Alberta...

In 1951, approximately 9,967 of mustard seed was grown in the province. By 1962, the acreage had increased over ten fold to 137,000 acres. In Canada, mustard seed is only grown in the prairies. In 1999, Saskatchewan planted 84 per cent of the national acreage, followed by Alberta with 14 per cent. Manitoba grows the remaining two per cent of the mustard seed crop. Within Alberta, mustard seed production is concentrated in the southern half of the province.



Just A Few Facts...

- There are three kinds of mustard grown in Alberta: yellow, oriental, and brown. Yellow mustard is used in prepared mustards, pickles, prepared meats, and salad dressings. The oriental and brown mustards are used in hot and gourmet mustards.

- Of the three varieties, the most commonly grown is the yellow mustard (37 per cent of production over the 1988 to 1995 period), followed by the Oriental (35 per cent), and the Brown (28 per cent).

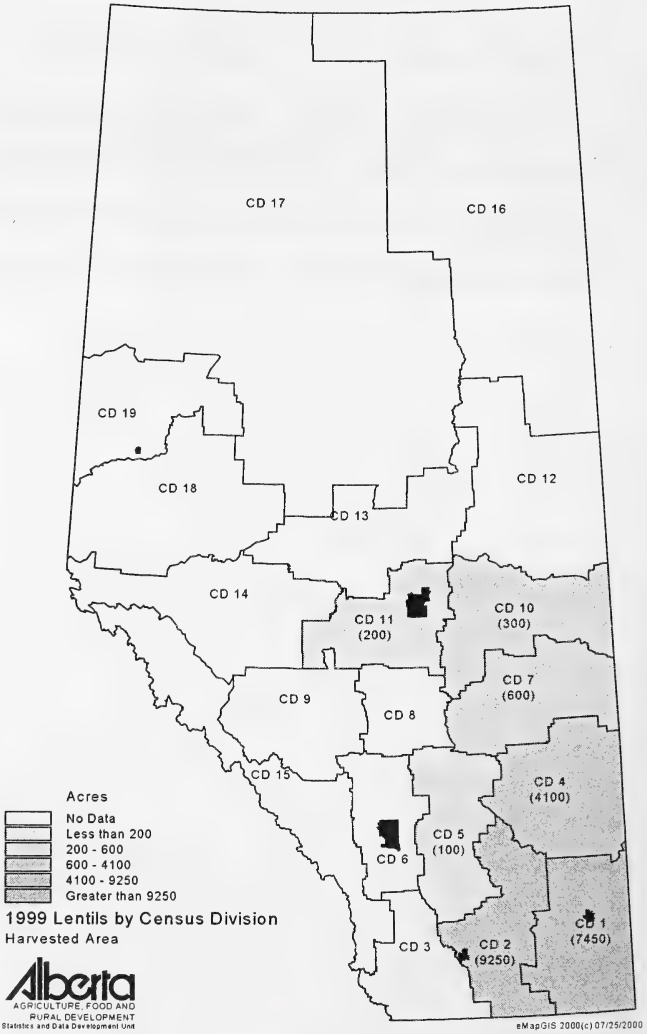
- In 1999, Alberta's mustard seed cash receipts were $12.7 million dollars, down from $15 million the previous year. Alberta's mustard cash receipts account for almost 15 per cent of the Canadian mustard receipts.

In 1999, the area seeded to mustard was 100,000 acres, a modest decrease from the 1998 level of 110,000 acres. Yet, despite lower seeded and harvested acreage, production was 13 per cent higher than in 1998 due to significantly better yields. In 1999, yields were estimated at 24.9 bushels per acre in comparison to 14.3 bushels per acre, the year previous. Mustard seed is grown primarily in the Central and Southern Regions of the province (see map on page 12).

Lentils

The Development of Lentils in Alberta...

In 1981, commercial lentil acreage was first recorded in the province. A total of 6,000 acres were planted that year. Since then, lentil acreage has fluctuated anywhere between 5,000 and 50,000 acres. On average, over 60 per cent of Alberta's lentil crop is grown in southern Alberta as lentils are best suited to the brown soil zones of the province. Over the last five years, Alberta has planted almost three per cent of the Canadian lentil acreage, while Saskatchewan has accounted for near 95 per cent with Manitoba growing the remaining two per cent of the Canadian lentil acreage.



1999 Lentils by Census Division
Harvested Area

Just A Few Facts...

- ✎ Lentils are high in protein and are predominantly used in foods such as soups and stews. They are considered one of the oldest cultivated crops in the world.

- There are two types of lentils grown in Alberta. The most common is the large seeded Chilean variety, called Laird. Eston is the other variety grown in the province. It is a smaller seeded, Persian variety that is normally grown in areas that receive plenty of precipitation (ie. irrigated areas).

- In 1999, Lentil farm cash receipts were reported at $3.5 million dollars. Alberta accounted for almost two per cent of Canada's lentil cash receipts.

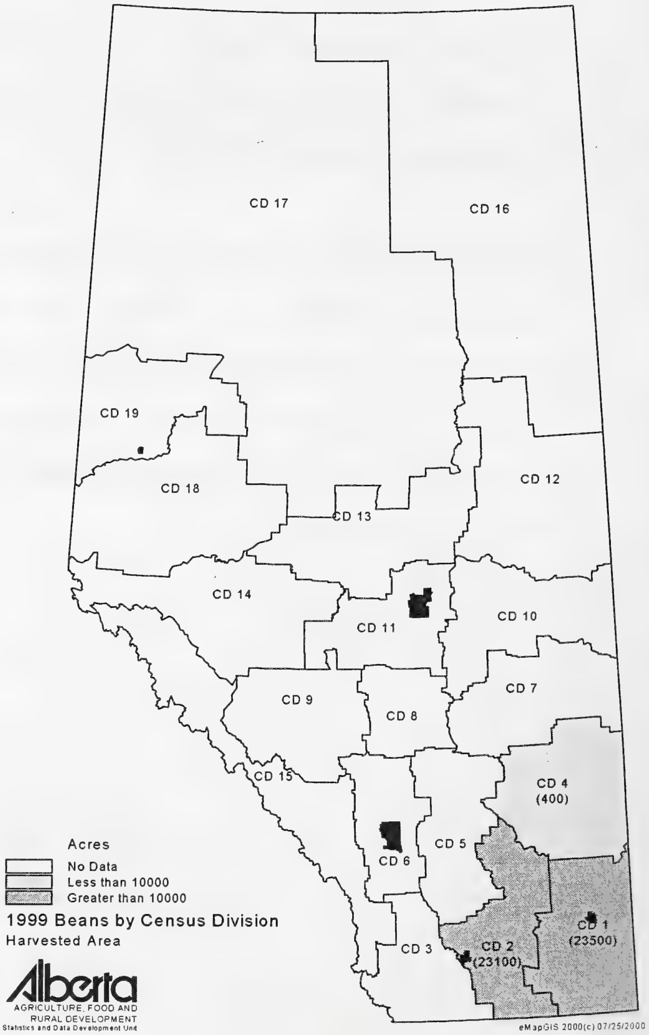
- In 1999, Western Europe, South America, the Middle East and Africa have been the dominant importers of Alberta's lentil crop. They account for 28, 21, 19 and 18 per cent of lentil exports, respectively.

In 1999, Alberta's seeded lentil acreage was estimated at 25,000 acres, marginally higher than 1998's level of 20,000 acres. In recent years, Alberta's lentil seeded acreage has rallied between 20,000 to 25,000 acres, reaching a high in 1992 at 50,000 acres. Production in 1999 is estimated at 12,400 tonnes, due to higher harvested area and better yields than the previous year. Lentil production is concentrated in the Southern and Central Regions of the province (see map on page 14).

Dry Beans

The Development of Dry Beans in Alberta...

In 1900, one acre of dry beans were first grown in the province, with only minor production until the late 1930's. In 1941, 1,249 acres were recorded (up 145 per cent from 1931). Land dedicated to bean acreage did not rise again until 1976, when 7,830 acres were planted. Since then, the acreage has continued to grow steadily, and in 1999, Alberta recorded the largest bean crop ever, at 47,000 acres. Over 95 per cent of Alberta's dry beans are grown on irrigation in the Southern Region of the province. Across Canada, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta are the largest growers of dry beans. In 1999, they accounted for 46, 36 and 13 per cent of the Canadian dry bean acreage, respectively. Alberta's yields are most often ranked at the highest of the three provinces.



1999 Beans by Census Division
Harvested Area

Just A Few Facts...

- Alberta's dry beans are exported primarily to the United States, Central and South America. Large importing nations include: the United States at 14,651 tonnes, Columbia at 8,537 tonnes and the Dominican Republic at 3,326 tonnes. The trend of Alberta bean exports has been very positive. In 1999, a total 30,299 tonnes were exported, a rise of 43 per cent from the 1998's level of 21,144 tonnes.

- On average, Alberta exports nearly 60 per cent of their dry bean production.

In 1999, provincial dry bean seeded area was 47,000 acres, about 2,000 acres higher than in 1998. Despite the higher acreage estimate, production was estimated at 42,700 tonnes from 45,400 tonnes, the year previous. This was primarily due to the lower realized yields (33 bushels per acre), a drop of four bushels per acre from the 37 bushels per acre realized in 1998. Bean production is primarily in the Southern and Central Regions of the province (see map on page 16).

Table 6

Alberta Special Crops Historical Series

		1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alfalfa Seed												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	20,000	23,000	21,500	22,000	18,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	21,000	20,000	30,000
YIELD	(lbs/acre)	270	350	375	85	83	340	265	265	300	425	200
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	2,449	3,651	3,657	848	678	3,080	2,400	2,400	2,700	3,800	2,700
Buckwheat												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	1,000	500	244	-	400	500	850	850	400	400	400
YIELD	(bu/acre)	18	18	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	401	200	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canaryseed												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	9,000	10,000	6,700	1,500	6,200	20,000	10,000	25,000	10,000	20,000	10,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	23	24	20	-	29	22	20	19	16	19	28
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	4,593	5,511	3,009	-	4,134	9,980	4,500	10,900	3,700	8,600	6,400
Corn Grain												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	9,000	7,000	8,700	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,600	4,100	5,000	10,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	61	93	97	42	100	100	100	100	100	90	80
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	13,968	16,519	21,370	5,296	12,700	12,700	12,700	6,400	10,200	11,400	20,300
Corn Silage												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
YIELD	(tons/acre)	13	13	15	10	13	12	16	16	12	20	13
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	180,985	180,985	202,758	172,365	119,749	104,330	145,100	145,100	163,300	272,200	181,400
Corn Sweet												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	2,400	2,500	2,300	1,500	2,300	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,900	3,100	3,000
YIELD	(tonnes/acre)	5	5	6	3	4	8	6	6	5	7	6
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	11,363	13,500	13,110	3,810	8,040	17,760	17,600	17,600	14,500	18,600	18,600
Fababeans												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	3,500	2,600	2,633	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,500	450	550	300
YIELD	(bu/acre)	31	33	37	26	34	33	30	30	30	21	50
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	2,907	2,314	2,618	2,052	2,735	2,650	2,070	2,070	330	310	400
Dry Beans												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	23,500	24,400	26,700	12,000	30,000	25,000	30,000	25,000	38,000	44,500	47,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	22	32	37	17	25	32	33	30	38	37	33
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	14,300	21,300	27,000	5,700	20,400	36,300	27,200	20,400	36,300	45,400	42,700
Dry Peas												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	95,000	85,000	167,100	210,000	308,000	410,000	445,000	280,000	385,000	489,000	455,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	31	38	37	32	43	37	34	40	40	36	43
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	78,858	86,982	166,903	182,660	364,310	408,030	412,300	307,500	421,800	488,000	530,800
Lentils												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	5,000	5,000	12,200	36,000	37,500	50,000	38,000	38,000	25,000	15,000	22,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	13	20	22	16	13	15	21	21	12	20	21
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	1,800	2,700	7,200	15,400	13,200	20,410	21,600	21,600	8,300	8,000	12,400
Mustard												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	70,000	80,000	59,900	35,000	70,000	120,000	115,000	115,000	145,000	110,000	90,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	19	19	22	23	27	19	23	23	15	16	22
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	29,500	34,500	29,300	18,500	43,400	50,200	60,200	60,200	50,600	39,700	44,800

Table 6 (Cont'd)

Alberta Special Crops Historical Series

		1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Safflower												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	5,000	4,000	5,200	3,500	2,500	2,300	1,850	1,850	2,400	4,000	5,000
YIELD	(lbs/acre)	938	1,250	1,224	535	149	1,410	1,200	1,200	1,150	800	900
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	2,127	2,268	2,887	849	169	1,470	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,450	2,000
Sugar Beets												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	29,500	32,700	35,000	32,000	30,000	350,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	45,000	43,000
YIELD	(tons/acre)	17	18	20	15	18	20	20	22	20	22	19
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	452,745	535,519	631,400	440,000	499,000	635,000	635,000	707,600	635,000	880,000	743,900
Sunflowers												
AREA	(acres)	2,000	3,000	2,800	3,000	5,000	4,800	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
YIELD	(lbs/acre)	1,250	1,667	1,629	1,011	1,183	1,550	1,900	1,900	1,400	1,900	1,600
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	1,134	2,268	2,069	1,376	2,682	3,380	4,310	4,310	3,200	4,300	3,600
Triticale												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	5,000	8,000	7,600	8,000	14,500	15,000	14,000	14,000	26,000	50,000	60,000
YIELD	(bu/acre)	40	19	33	25	41	42	44	44	35	38	53
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	5,080	3,820	6,371	4,979	15,138	16,000	15,600	15,600	23,100	48,300	81,300
Potatoes												
HARVESTED AREA	(acres)	26,200	28,500	27,200	26,100	27,700	29,000	29,500	29,500	31,000	33,000	43,000
YIELD	(cwt/acre)	250	240	220	230	269	278	298	298	289	295	290
PRODUCTION	(tonnes)	297,106	310,260	271,432	272,294	338,000	365,500	398,400	398,400	406,500	430,900	556,400

Table 7 - Western Canada Specialty Crops Area and Production

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Mustard				Seeded Area	'000 acres						
Alberta	70.0	80.0	59.9	45.0	60.0	90.0	100.0	90.0	145.0	110.0	100.0
Saskatchewan	400.0	465.0	202.7	240.0	400.0	700.0	550.0	490.0	560.0	580.0	585.0
Manitoba	24.0	25.0	16.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	17.0	10.0	7.0
Western Canada	494.0	570.0	278.9	295.0	470.0	800.0	660.0	591.0	722.0	700.0	692.0
				Production	'000 tonnes						
Alberta	29.5	34.5	30.5	20.1	32.1	36.3	51.1	29.0	50.6	39.7	44.8
Saskatchewan	117.9	201.8	81.7	109.7	180.0	278.9	190.6	196.9	186.4	195.5	259.7
Manitoba	7.4	13.2	8.9	3.5	3.8	4.1	2.6	4.9	6.3	3.4	1.9
Western Canada	154.8	249.5	121.1	133.3	215.9	319.3	244.3	230.8	243.3	238.6	306.4
Sunflowers				Seeded Area	'000 acres						
Alberta	2.0	3.0	2.8	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Saskatchewan	15.0	17.0	17.5	20.0	80.0	60.0	40.0	25.0	35.0	40.0	65.0
Manitoba	115.0	140.0	182.4	160.0	125.0	140.0	75.0	63.0	85.0	125.0	140.0
Western Canada	132.0	160.0	202.7	184.0	210.0	205.0	120.0	90.0	125.0	170.0	210.0
				Production	'000 tonnes						
Alberta	1.1	2.3	2.1	1.1	2.3	4.5	4.3	1.5	3.2	4.3	3.6
Saskatchewan	4.1	7.3	8.2	8.4	29.0	25.9	18.4	15.7	14.3	21.3	35.4
Manitoba	63.0	100.7	124.3	55.3	47.2	86.6	43.5	37.7	47.6	86.2	82.9
Western Canada	68.2	110.3	134.6	64.8	78.5	117.0	66.2	54.9	65.1	111.8	121.9
Lentils				Seeded Area	'000 acres						
Alberta	5.0	5.0	12.2	50.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	25.0	20.0	25.0
Saskatchewan	220.0	270.0	442.8	475.0	750.0	830.0	735.0	690.0	780.0	900.0	1210.0
Manitoba	30.0	55.0	133.5	165.0	130.0	115.0	50.0	40.0	8.0	15.0	16.0
Western Canada	255.0	330.0	588.5	690.0	920.0	985.0	825.0	750.0	813.0	935.0	1251.0
				Production	'000 tonnes						
Alberta	1.8	2.7	6.6	15.6	9.4	19.5	21.5	7.7	8.3	8.0	12.4
Saskatchewan	79.4	172.4	272.2	254.0	315.2	381.0	381.9	373.8	365.2	465.9	702.6
Manitoba	15.0	38.1	64.0	79.4	24.1	49.9	28.5	21.0	5.3	5.9	8.8
Western Canada	96.2	213.2	342.8	349.0	348.7	450.4	431.9	402.5	378.8	479.8	723.8
Field Peas				Seeded Area	'000 acres						
Alberta	95.0	85.0	167.1	200.0	300.0	400.0	465.0	290.0	385.0	510.0	470.0
Saskatchewan	160.0	130.0	195.8	350.0	750.0	1110.0	1350.0	900.0	1500.0	1900.0	1520.0
Manitoba	115.0	90.0	127.4	125.0	200.0	210.0	180.0	145.0	205.0	260.0	105.0
Western Canada	370.0	305.0	490.3	675.0	1250.0	1720.0	1995.0	1335.0	2090.0	2670.0	2095.0
				Production	'000 tonnes						
Alberta	78.9	87.1	164.7	151.0	299.4	374.2	412.3	307.5	421.8	488.0	530.8
Saskatchewan	84.4	103.4	160.6	244.9	585.1	898.1	868.2	729.4	1158.0	1613.9	1623.4
Manitoba	70.8	73.5	84.4	108.9	85.7	168.7	147.0	132.0	178.3	225.9	92.0
Western Canada	234.1	264.0	409.7	504.8	970.2	1441.0	1427.5	1168.9	1758.2	2327.7	2246.2
Canary Seed				Seeded Area	'000 acres						
Alberta	4.0	7.0	7.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	25.0	10.0	20.0	15.0
Saskatchewan	260.0	270.0	215.1	215.0	300.0	480.0	330.0	520.0	250.0	450.0	340.0
Manitoba	35.0	30.0	20.1	18.0	12.0	25.0	25.0	70.0	20.0	50.0	15.0
Western Canada	299.0	307.0	242.2	235.0	312.0	505.0	365.0	615.0	280.0	520.0	370.0
				Production	'000 tonnes						
Alberta	1.6	3.5	3.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	10.9	3.7	8.6	6.4
Saskatchewan	95.3	154.2	93.0	116.8	124.7	226.8	137.9	240.0	102.1	201.8	152.0
Manitoba	20.2	18.1	7.3	7.3	3.1	13.6	12.2	33.7	9.2	24.9	7.6
Western Canada	117.1	175.8	103.3	125.1	127.8	240.4	154.6	284.6	115.0	235.3	166.0

Source: Statistics Canada; Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Table 8 - Canada: Supply and Disposition For Special Crops (c)

Grain and Crop Year (a)	Harvested Area '000 ha	Yield tonnes/ha	Production	Imports (b)	Total Supply	Exports (b)	Total Domestic Use (d)	Ending Stocks	Average Price (e) $/tonne
			thousand metric tonnes						
Dry Peas									
1996-1997	520	2.25	1,169	8	1,397	856	461	80	209
1997-1998	848	2.06	1,747	12	1,839	1,116	553	170	177
1998-1999	1,078	2.17	2,337	10	2,517	1,705	652	160	132
1999-2000f	835	2.70	2,252	10	2,422	1,450	802	170	130-140
2000-2001f	1,237	2.25	2,780	10	2,960	1,650	895	415	115-145
Lentils									
1996-1997	304	1.33	403	4	484	286	108	90	470
1997-1998	329	1.15	379	4	473	349	109	15	324
1998-1999	372	1.29	480	7	502	372	120	10	381
1999-2000f	497	1.46	724	10	744	530	159	55	375-385
2000-2001f	730	1.33	970	5	1,030	650	180	200	315-345
Dry Beans									
1996-1997	84	1.58	133	26	179	124	45	10	605
1997-1998	90	1.82	163	20	193	127	51	15	485
1998-1999	96	1.98	189	69	273	193	55	25	655
1999-2000f	154	1.91	294	35	354	260	59	35	510-520
2000-2001f	168	1.76	295	25	355	270	65	20	510-540
Chick Peas									
1996-1997	3	1.33	4	4	8	1	7	-	n/a
1997-1998	11	1.36	15	3	18	3	14	1	400
1998-1999	38	1.34	51	2	54	14	35	5	493
1999-2000f	139	1.42	197	3	205	70	125	10	390-400
2000-2001f	293	1.26	370	-	380	210	100	70	345-375
Mustard Seed									
1996-1997	233	0.99	231	1	252	141	61	50	363
1997-1998	292	0.83	243	1	294	166	63	65	398
1998-1999	279	0.86	239	1	305	162	63	80	348
1999-2000f	273	1.12	306	1	387	180	72	135	280-290
2000-2001f	208	0.96	200	-	335	180	65	90	270-300
Canary Seed									
1996-1997	235	1.21	285	-	305	122	44	139	300
1997-1998	113	1.01	115	-	254	134	47	73	322
1998-1999	208	1.13	235	-	308	137	51	120	248
1999-2000f	146	1.14	166	-	286	150	46	90	235-245
2000-2001 f	173	1.13	195	-	285	155	45	85	225-255
Sunflower Seed									
1996-1997	35	1.57	55	12	91	24	43	24	345
1997-1998	51	1.29	65	12	101	45	46	10	344
1998-1999	69	1.62	112	17	139	43	61	35	388
1999-2000f	79	1.54	122	13	170	55	80	35	295-305
2000-2001f	70	1.50	105	15	155	55	85	15	300-330
Buckwheat									
1996-1997	17	1.30	22	1	25	12	11	2	320
1997-1998	14	1.14	16	1	19	9	9	1	305
1998-1999	14	1.07	15	3	19	9	9	1	315
1999-2000f	13	1.00	13	3	17	8	8	1	300-310
2000-2001f	16	1.06	17	1	19	10	8	1	280-310
Total Special Crops (c)									
1996-1997	1,431	1.61	2,302	56	2,741	1,566	780	395	
1997-1998	1,748	1.57	2,743	53	3,191	1,949	892	350	
1998-1999	2,154	1.70	3,658	109	4,117	2,635	1,046	436	
1999-2000f	2,136	1.91	4,074	75	4,585	2,703	1,351	531	
2000-2001f	2,895	1.70	4,932	56	5,519	3,180	1,443	896	

(a) Aug - July crop year.
(b) Excludes products.
(c) Includes dry peas, lentils, dry beans, chick peas, mustard seed, canary seed, sunflower seed and buckwheat.
(d) Includes food, feed, seed, waste and dockage.
(e) Producer price, FOB plant. Average over all types, grades and markets.

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
f - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada forecast, July 5, 2000.

Conclusion

The Alberta Special Crop Industry has evolved into a world class industry, over a relatively short time frame. Exploding from about 185,000 acres in 1981, there were about 900,000 acres of special crops in 1999, almost a five fold increase. This survey allows us to monitor the growth and the needs of a developing sector, to facilitate further expansion.

Interestingly, the special crop sector's substantial growth has occurred right alongside the production of the "major grains and oilseeds." Production of special crops offer several advantages to the producer, including the following:

"
- *producers could deliver special crops outside the quota system anytime one chooses to sell,*
- *producers received cash payment against delivery and didn't need to wait for a final payment,*
- *special crops were listed as miscellaneous crops in the CWB permit books which permitted producers to make additional deliveries of quota grains on special crop acres,*
- *many special crops offer agronomic advantages, they are beneficial to grow in rotations.*[1] "

Yet, as outlined previously, the special crops industry remains highly export dependent. Fortunately, world demand experienced an upward trend coinciding with expanded production capabilities. One factor which has bode well for the special crops industry has been a relatively weak Canadian dollar which has shored up global demand for Canadian product. In addition, over the past 30 years, world exports of pulses have quadrupled. Alberta and other Canadian provinces have been able to capitalize on this rise, as national pulse production is about six per cent of world pulse production, yet, our share of total trade is nearly 25 per cent.

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[1] Ms. Marlene H. Boersch, "Canadian Special Crops Industry Overview", Winnipeg, MB, November 1996.

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